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## JEWS CLOSE TO LINCOLN

By ISAAC MARKENS

## THE REVOLT AGAINST THE HILFSVEREIN IN PALESTINE

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## JEWS CLOSE TO LINCOLN

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NEW Lincoln pictures are a rarity. Now and then is blazoned forth the discovery of something described as just emerged from its hiding place and "absolutely new," which proves to be of decidedly ancient flavor. The field for further Lincoln research has the appearance of a dreary waste. With the close of the present decade most of Lincoln's contemporaries will have passed away. From the little band still remaining, are brought forth occasionally a few shreds of overlooked material, and well worth saving from oblivion. Such instances are rare. Some of decided value, and long in my possession, are here presented as received from the narrators.

Joseph B. Greenhut, the New York, merchant, furnishes much interesting information of his intercourse with Lincoln during his service in the army from which I quote the following:

"On April 14, 1861, came the news of the fall of Fort Sumter, followed by the president's first call for 75,000 volunteers to serve for three months. Greenhut was then living in Chicago. This proclamation was published in the Chicago afternoon papers, and on the morning following young Greenhut enlisted under that call, he being the second man in the city of Chicago to be enrolled for the suppression of the rebellion. This proving a more formidable task than expected, a further call for 300,000 men to serve for three years followed and Greenhut again enlisted and served during that period. Step by step he was advanced to the rank of captain, and finally was promoted as chief of the staff of Col. Hecker's brigade in the division of Gen. Carl Schurz. Having served continuously from the outbreak of the war, with a brilliant record for gallantry and fidelity at Fort Donelson, Lookout Mountain, Gettysburg and elsewhere, Captain Greenhut resigned from the service on February 28, 1864.

Regarding Lincoln's re-election, as imperatively demanded by existing conditions, he felt somewhat as Lincoln himself had expressed it: "It is a bad policy to swap horses while in the middle of a stream," and took an active part in his re-election, being much elated over his success. He was present at the second inauguration in 1865, participated in all the functions then going on, and shook the hand of Lincoln several times on that occasion. "Our conversation," said Capt. Greenhut, "was very brief, but to the point. I merely expressed my good will and wishes for his future welfare, and he thanked me very much as he knew I came from Illinois expressly to witness the inauguration."

Capt. Greenhut's next function was a sad one, when Lincoln's body was conveyed to his old Springfield home, and lay in state in Chicago. For two days and nights hundreds of thousands of people viewed the remains, Capt. Greenhut being the officer in charge of the veterans who formed a body-guard for the remains during the stay in Chicago.

The recent death of Edward S. Salomon of California, recalls an interview with him some two years ago when he narrated the incidents hereto appended. Salomon earned a commission as Brevet-Brigadier General for services in the Civil War and President Grant later on appointed him Governor of Washington territory.

Gen. Salomon formed the acquaintance of Lincoln in 1856 while reading law with Norman B. Judd, in whose offices in Chicago Lincoln made his headquarters. There he met Lincoln quite frequently. During leisure hours Lincoln entertained the young men there with quaint and humorous stories of his early days. In 1858 it was Salomon's good fortune to report some of the Lincoln-Douglas debates for a German newspaper, including the one at Freeport. He was one of the assistant secretaries of the Republican National Convention of 1860 at Chicago, and served as such at all its sessions until the taking of the final ballot, when he went to the roof of the convention building, known as "the Wigwam," to join in the announcement to the crowd below of the nomination of the Rail-Splitter." Having joined the army as Second Lieutenant of the 24th Illinois regiment, Salomon, after serving in the West and being promoted to Major, was transferred to the East where he became Colonel of the 82nd Illinois regiment. His command being stationed near Washington, he had frequent occasion to call on the President by whom he was always kindly greeted by name. When leaving the White House, he was invariably enjoined by Lincoln to "look out and not get killed," to which he responded, "I certainly shall not, if I can help it."

Following the battle of Gettysburg, in which Salomon took part, he told the writer it became necessary, in consequence of many desertions in the face of the enemy, to execute at least one man in each division of the army on a certain day. One, John Baus, of Salomon's regiment, was one of the many court-martialed for such offense and sentenced to be shot. Having thoroughly investigated the charge against Baus, Salomon was convinced of the man's innocence. He found that Baus, having suffered an attack of sunstroke which unbalanced his mind, had wandered away from his command, in which state he was picked up by the provost-guard of the Union forces, quite close to the Confederate lines, by whom his incoherent statements were construed as evidence of guilt. Knowing Baus to be a brave and good soldier, that he had drifted along to the place where apprehended utterly bereft of reason, and ignorant of his proximity to the enemy, Col. Salomon felt that execution under such circumstances would be nothing short of murder. He thereupon drew up a petition to the President fully covering the facts and requesting a pardon, hastened to Washington and presented the petition to Secretary Stanton, who declined to consider it. He next took the petition to the President, informing him that the execution of Baus would be a terrible injustice and nothing short of judicial murder. He then told Lincoln of Stanton's refusal to take action in the case.

"I don't know whether or not you will grant this pardon," said Col. Salomon, "but you have always been so kind to me that I believe this man's life may be saved if the matter were properly put before you."

At this point Lincoln stood for quite a while in deep thought, looking earnestly at his visitor. Finally he said to Col. Salomon: "You are a good soldier. I have heard of your record. I know it. Stanton is a pretty hard fellow—ain't he?"

"Yes," replied Salomon, "I think so."

"Yes, that's so," returned the President, "but we need such a man in the position he holds."

Col. Salomon admitted such was the case, adding that it was also fortunate for the country that there was one above Stanton who knew how to temper justice with mercy. Here the President looked at Col. Salomon as he smilingly said: "Well, you put that pretty well—come back in an hour, and I'll think it over."

Now spoke Col. Salomon: "Mr. President, unless I get there before one o'clock to-morrow afternoon this man will be shot."

"Well," said Lincoln, "if he is pardoned you will get there in time, and if he isn't it won't matter when you get there."

Within an hour Col. Salomon reported to the President who placed in his hand a pardon already made out. Salomon, while profusely thanking the President and bent on saying more, was interrupted

with the warning: "Well, you want to get there in time, hurry up and go."

Col. Salomon made his exit and hurried by train to Centerville, Va., where he arrived at 11 o'clock in the morning. His horse was almost killed in covering the ground. He got there to find the Division of troops drawn up around the open grave, the Chaplain of the regiment intoning a prayer. Col. Salomon had telegraphed of his coming, but nothing short of his exhibition of a pardon with Lincoln's signature could stay the execution. The Colonel's production of the precious document, in the nick of time, was, he says, much appreciated by the whole command who heartily cheered the President as they marched off to their quarters.

Years had passed since the vast army of a million men had melted away, and Gen. Salomon was county clerk of Cook County, Illinois, when a most remarkable sequence to the Virginian episode occurred in the city of Chicago. He had been attending a political meeting in that city all through the night, and was preparing to leave for his home at 2 o'clock in the morning. The city being in the throes of a terrific rainstorm, Gen. Salomon sent out for a hack, but could find none. A second time he sent for one, and was more fortunate. With instructions to be driven to his house, he entered the hack and in due time was at his destination.

On alighting, Salomon inquired of the driver: "How much is this?" The answer came: "One dollar."

Said Gen. Salomon: "This is a pretty bad night to take a man out for a dollar, —take two dollars," and he passed the money.

Much to Gen. Salomon's surprise, the driver now said: "General, I don't want anything."

Still more surprised the General exclaimed: "You don't want anything, my man—you surely are not driving out for your health in weather like this?"

At this point the man said: "The fact is, General, if it had'nt been for you, I would not be driving this hack. I am John Baus of Company B, who was sentenced to be shot and you saved my life."

The interview closed as Gen. Salomon remarked: "Well, that's all right, you take the two dollars anyhow,—I'm glad to see you doing so well."

General Salomon's petition in behalf of Baus was the last occasion of his meeting Lincoln. Of his subsequent experience in the army, he says: "Our force was transferred from the Army of the Potomac to the Army of the Cumberland under Gen. Thomas and our future campaigns were through Georgia, the Carolinas, and Virginia, ending with the great review in Washington. While stationed at Raleigh, N. C., we received the news of President Lincoln's assassination, on the same day that Johnston's army surrendered to Sherman. The consternation, grief and heartfelt sorrow expressed and demonstrated by the army on the receipt of this terrible news, was such that none who ever witnessed it can ever forget it. It proved more than anything else the intense love and veneration of the soldiers for this, the greatest American who ever lived. The surrender of Johnston was the last straw that broke the Confederacy. It aroused enthusiasm, but Lincoln's death cast a shadow on our path for many a day."

One, Jacob Alshuler, who came from Germany and settled in Covington, Indiana, in the late forties of the nineteenth century, was the first comer of a family closely related to Lincoln. A cousin, now known as Moses Alshuler, a well-known merchant of Chicago, lived in Danville, Ill., in 1853-54, having arrived in this country early in 1853. Danville, then a small village and county seat, drew many lawyers as a place of residence. Ward H. Lamon was Lincoln's resident partner in Danville, while the latter lived in Springfield, and Lincoln often came to Danville to attend the sessions of the Circuit Court. Moses Alshuler's brother, Jacob, the only Jewish citizen in the town, kept a clothing store and being of a very jovial disposition, attracted many of the lawyers and judges to his store which thus became the popular gathering place, Lincoln being among the many who spent much of his leisure time in the store. Mr. Alshuler often met him there and admired his great geniality, listening to his many little stories, admirably told, with a kind word for everybody, and everybody was his friend regardless of nationality or creed. Naturally, being but a mere lad, just mastering the English language, young Alshuler became much interested in Lincoln's career from that time on, and saw his kind face for the last time at the State house in Indianapolis when on his way to Springfield for burial. "Little did I think," says Mr. Alshuler, "that among these gatherings in the Danville store, we had one of the greatest men of the age."

For many additional facts concerning Lincoln and the Alshuler family, the writer is indebted to the Hon. Samuel Alshuler of Chicago and Aurora, Ill., a leading lawyer of the West and in 1900 an unsuccessful candidate for Governor of Illinois on the Democratic ticket. Mr. Alshuler is a son of Jacob Alshuler of Danville, nephew of Moses Alshuler and of Samuel Alshuler, to whom we shall presently refer. He states that many are the tales he has heard his father relate of Lincoln, before his death in 1896. Referring to a visit to Danville, some years ago, when he had gone to try a lawsuit, Mr. Alshuler tells of being then shown an old Danville newspaper published some fifty years before. Appended to a notice printed therein in 1852, calling a meeting of Olive Branch Masonic Lodge No. 38, of that place, to celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of George Washington's initiation into the order on November 4th, are the names of Jacob Alshuler and Daniel W. Voorhis, the latter from Covington, Ind. who was later on the famous Senator from Indiana, known as "The tall Sycamore of the Wabash."

In this same Danville newspaper appeared also an announcement that Samuel Alshuler, a brother of Jacob Alshuler and uncle of the present Samuel Alshuler, our informant, would be at Danville to take daguerreotypes on certain days named. The senior Samuel Alshuler was an itinerant artist living in Urbana, Ill., his name being linked with Lincoln's, on account of an interesting circumstance which occurred in Urbana and is thus described in a letter to the writer by J. O. Cunningham, a resident of the town since 1853, most of the time engaged as editor of a local paper and in the practice of the law. Mr. Cunningham is a member of the Illinois State Historical Society. He says: "I knew Mr. Lincoln very well and was a practising attorney here when it was his habit to visit our court at every semi-annual term for the purpose of engaging in his business as a lawyer, he at that time residing at the State Capital, Springfield. He attended the May term, 1858, for a few days, during which Samuel Alshuler was engaged there in making ambrotype pictures. One morning I happened to be in the rooms of Alshuler when Mr. Lincoln walked in and said he had been informed that he, the artist, wished him to sit for his portrait. Mr. Lincoln was dressed in a long linen duster, the weather being warm at the time. Alshuler answered that he had so requested and said he could not make a good picture of him in that coat and asked if he had not a dark colored coat in which to sit. Mr. Lincoln said he had not, as this duster was the only coat that he had brought with him from home. Alshuler then said, 'Put on my coat,' which was done. Alshuler's body was as large as Lincoln's, but his legs and arms were only of ordinary length, while Lincoln's were abnormally long. The fit around the bust was good, but the arms protruded a quarter of a yard beyond the sleeves, making a most ludicrous and laughable appearance. Lincoln laughed immoderately and it was with much effort that he overcame his hilarity enough to be posed for the picture with his hands thrown down by his sides in order to hide the discrepancy of coat and arms. In this picture, his lips are unlike any other portrait, this from the effort made by him at looking sober."

It was the privilege of Nathan Heldman, for many years a merchant of Bloomington, Ill., so he states, to meet and shake hands with Lincoln, as early as 1858, when the future President was a frequent visitor to that city. An incident which Mr. Heldman often recalls, and of which he was an eye-witness, was a game of billiards between Lincoln and Ward H. Lamon, then living in Bloomington, and others. Lincoln, he says, showed such awkwardness in handling his cue, and whenever he accomplished the feat of striking the balls, he jumped around and cried out like a schoolboy, on the joy of having hit the mark. Mr. Heldman, now living in Cincinnati, states that the great kindness stamped in Lincoln's face and so often referred to by his biographers, can never be forgotten by anyone, who, like himself, had the pleasure and honor of knowing Lincoln as he did.

A plain hickory walking cane carved by Lincoln, with the name "Abe Lincoln" cut on it, is owned by Sigmund Heldman, now and for forty years a merchant of Bloomington, Ill. He tells the writer that he found it when cleaning up the

office he rented from the Third Mutual Bank of Bloomington, about 1880, which had been occupied at one time by Gen. Asabel Gridley, who, like Lincoln, had served in the Black Hawk War, and was in command of the McLean County militia, during the Mexican War. Lincoln and Gridley were great friends. When the former attended Court at Bloomington, he usually, during leisure hours, was sitting around Gridley's office where he must have lost the cane. The stick was exhibited with other relics at the World's Fair in St. Louis in 1904.

Prompt release from confinement in the Elmira, N. Y., prison of Henry Schwabacher, private of an Alabama artillery company, captured at Fort Donelson, Tenn., in 1864, was brought about by the late Nathan Herrmann of New York, through the influence of a friend, a New England editor named Tinton. Schwabacher, a merchant near Montgomery, Ala., had been impressed into the Confederate service, leaving a wife and five children at home. When this fact was made known to the President, by Tinton, he exclaimed: "Too bad! Too bad! He shall be released tomorrow." Two visitors, awaiting an audience with the President, who had overheard these proceedings, now stepped forward with an appeal for the release of a Confederate Colonel captured in a recent battle. Mr. Lincoln was indisposed to grant their request, whereupon his visitors reminded him that he had just released a common soldier. "Yes," replied the President, "but he has a wife and five children and was forced into the service. Your friend, the Colonel, was not forced into the service as Colonel—but one big fish is worth another big fish. I will see if he can be exchanged for an officer of equal rank." Schwabacher, who was released the following day, was a brother of Simon Schwabacher, grand rabbi of Odessa, Russia.

The late Max Stadler, born in Bavaria, March 15, 1822, and died in the city of New York, July 12, 1910, was on intimate terms with Lincoln. From 1855 to 1863 he was the senior member of a prominent Cincinnati firm having extensive business ramifications throughout the West, including the State of Illinois, and from 1855 to 1859 Mr. Lincoln was the attorney of said firm in that State. In 1858 a Springfield merchant, indebted to the Cincinnati firm in the sum of $5,000 for merchandise, made an effort to leave the State, after shipment of his goods to Decatur, Ill., to evade payment. The facts were laid before Lincoln, who instructed Max Stadler to go to Decatur and identify the merchandise and this was done. Lincoln joined Stadler in Decatur where the two registered at the old St. Nicholas Hotel, then known as the Harold, and the two occupied the same bed. Lincoln having talked with the man, and satisfied himself of his dishonesty, threatened him with imprisonment in the state penitentiary at Joliet, unless he made good. Thus brought to bay, he proposed to settle the case by payment of $2,500. This Mr. Lincoln advised Stadler to accept, saying: "Let some other man send this poor unfortunate fellow to jail. You will gain nothing by doing it." This advice was followed on the assurance of the delinquent that a settlement of the claim would be followed by his reformation.

I have it from the late Dr. Nathan Mayer, a distinguished surgeon of Hartford, Conn., and one time Surgeon-General of the Connecticut National Guard, that President Lincoln was prevailed upon to spare the life of a Jewish officer, Captain of a New England regiment, because of the appeal of his wife. Said officer, whom we shall designate as Adler, the name being fictitious, had been sentenced to death by a military commission at New Orleans for a heinous offense, the sentence being approved by General Benjamin F. Butler. Adler's wife, the daughter of a well-known Connecticut family, was a woman of tenacity and resolution, and Lincoln granted her petition. Another element that influenced the mitigation of the death sentence was the Masonic kinship of "Adler" and Butler, evidence of which appears in the Masonic records of Connecticut and Massachusetts.

Lincoln's first inauguration was witnessed by Morris Felsenheld, now of Aurora, Ill., then twenty-six years old. He came from Bavaria, settling in New York, where he lived with an uncle, Herman Felsenheld, a rabbi and teacher, took up his residence in Illinois at an early date and attended the Republican National Convention in Chicago in 1860. He gave to me this narrative of his journey to Washington to witness Lincoln's inauguration.

The day was mild and beautiful, and the Capital was crowded as never before, by both Unionists and Secessionists. The town fairly throbbed with suppressed excitement and fears of coming trouble. He was fortunate enough to get within hearing distance amidst thousands of listeners immediately in front of Mr. Lincoln, and heard every word of the inaugural address. A brilliant group of distinguished men surrounded him including Stephen A. Douglas and Roger B. Taney, the Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court, who administered the oath, Mr. Lincoln towering above them all. He appeared somewhat embarrassed in an effort to dispose of his tall, glossy hat until Mr. Douglas came to the rescue by taking charge of it. When Mr. Lincoln commenced with the words "Fellow Citizens of the United States," the vast multitude gave a great cheer, evidently impressed with the idea that the speaker had not yet despaired of being able to preserve the Union. Lincoln's address was highly conciliatory—almost apologetic and should have gone far to reassure and pacify our Southern brethren. His closing words were pathetic and made a deep impression upon the thousands of hearers. But in spite of his warning: "Passion must not break our bonds of affection," they let slip the dogs of war and four years of agony followed.

After a tedious and perilous journey President Lincoln personally welcomed to the Capital, in the spring of 1861, a body of 170 recruits of the famous New York Seventh Regiment in command of Acting Orderly Sergeant Louis Sterne, a native of Philadelphia, and brother of the late Simon Sterne, a distinguished lawyer of New York. Following this meeting with Lincoln, Louis Sterne was appointed by him in the secret service and assigned to the Baltic coast, to prevent the equipment of blockade-runners in which capacity he remained until the close of the war. Lincoln called Sterne home once to explain the escape of a certain blockade-runner from the port of Lubeck in the Baltic. Another mission of importance was contemplated for Sterne by the President at the time of the assassination. In one of the many interviews with Lincoln the President told Sterne that he had suffered from corns and of his employment of Isaachar Zacharie to relieve him. He also mentioned to Sterne that Zacharie had been appointed as chief orthopedist of the army, for the reason that no man can do good walking if he suffers from this cause. More information of Sterne's relations with Lincoln may be found in a volume from his pen, entitled "Seventy Years of an Active Life," recently printed in London, England, where he is now living in his seventy-eighth year.

### C. J. W. Executive to Meet Here

For the first time since 1895 the National Executive Committee of the National Council of Jewish Women will hold its annual meeting in New York City, convening on Monday, February 9, at the Temple Beth-El.

A public meeting will be held in the vestry rooms of the Temple on Monday evening, February 9, at which Adolph Lewisohn will be the principal speaker. Monday and Tuesday will be devoted to business sessions at the national headquarters, 448 Central Park West, and on Wednesday morning a breakfast will be given for the National Executive Committee by the New York Section at Delmonico's, at which the national officers, Miss Katherine B. Davis, Commissioner of Charities, and Miss Mary Antin will be the principal guests.

### "Thousand Years Ago" for Charity

A special performance of Percy Mackaye's "A Thousand Years Ago" will be given at the Shubert Theatre on Tuesday evening, February 24, for the benefit of the New York Auxiliary of the National Jewish Hospital for Consumptives of Denver. Tickets may be procured of Mrs. A. I. Brickner, 315 Central Park West.

The Auxiliary contributes to the maintenance of a bed at the Denver Hospital, and has already donated $700, the necessary amount being $1,000. In addition, the organization takes care of those patients sent from New York to the Hospital, assisting them with railroad fare, clothing and other necessities. It also attempts to look after those who may be dependent upon patients sent to Denver.

### U. H. C. Patronesses Meet

The Board of Patronesses of the United Hebrew Charities held its fifth meeting on Thursday afternoon, January 29, when Mrs. S. Elkeles and Mrs. A. N. Cohen addressed the meeting. The Board has special care of twenty-nine families and is constantly in touch with them through the parent society, the United Hebrew Charities.